a player for playing said first recording medium and connected to a card reader;

and

a card having a predetermined value for insertion into said card reader; wherein when said card is inserted into said card reader, said card reader verifies that said predetermined value is at least a selected minimum value and authorizes said player to decipher said first recording medium.

10. (Thrice Amended) A method for recording and playing digital signals, comprising:

receiving an encrypted digital signal comprising a digital audio broadcast segment; storing said encrypted digital signal in a buffer as it is being received;

determining whether a beginning of said broadcast segment is in said buffer in response to a user request to record said encrypted digital signal;

recording said encrypted digital signal onto a first recording medium in a recorder and player device if said beginning of said broadcast segment is stored in said buffer;

inserting a card having at least a predetermined value into said recorder and player device;

determining that said predetermined value corresponds to at least a selected minimum value; and

deciphering said encrypted digital signal if said card has said selected minimum value.

13. (Thrice Amended) A method for recording and playing an encrypted digital audio broadcast signal, comprising:

receiving an encrypted digital audio broadcast signal comprising a digital audio broadcast segment;

storing at least part of said encrypted digital audio broadcast signal in a buffer as it is being received;

electing to record said encrypted digital audio broadcast signal onto a first recording medium;

determining whether a beginning of said broadcast segment is in said buffer; and recording said encrypted digital audio broadcast signal onto said first recording medium if said beginning of said broadcast segment is stored in said buffer.

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